

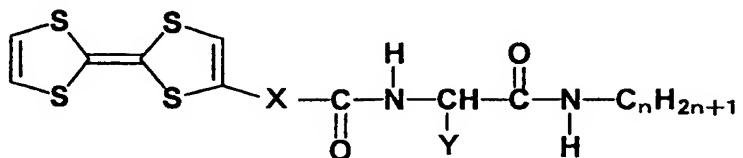
[Document Name] CLAIMS

[Claim 1] A gelling agent composed of a functional amino acid compound having a tetrathiafulvalenyl group

[Claim 2] The gelling agent according to claim 1, which is composed of a functional amino acid compound having a tetrathiafulvalenyl group and represented by the following general formula (1).

[Chemical Formula 1]

General formula (1):



[In the formula, X denotes a single bond or a divalent organic group, Y denotes a monovalent organic group, and n is an integer of 8 to 18.]

[Claim 3] A method for producing a gelling agent, which comprises reacting a tetrathiafulvalene derivative with an amino acid derivative in the presence of 1-ethyl-3-(3-dimethylaminopropyl) carbodiimide hydrochloride and 4-(N,N-dimethylamino)pyridine to obtain a functional amino acid compound having a tetrathiafulvalenyl group.

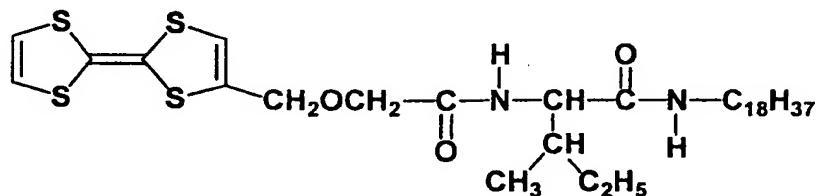
[Claim 4] A liquid crystal composition comprising a liquid crystal compound and a gelling agent, which is mixed with the liquid crystal compound to form a gelling mixture, wherein the liquid crystal compound is composed

of a compound exhibiting a nematic phase or smectic phase, and the gelling agent is the gelling agent according to claim 1 or 2.

[Claim 5] The liquid crystal composition according to claim 4, wherein the liquid crystal compound is 4-octyl-4'-cyanobiphenyl, and the gelling agent is composed of a functional amino acid compound having a tetrathiafulvalenyl group and represented by the following formula (1).

[Chemical Formula 2]

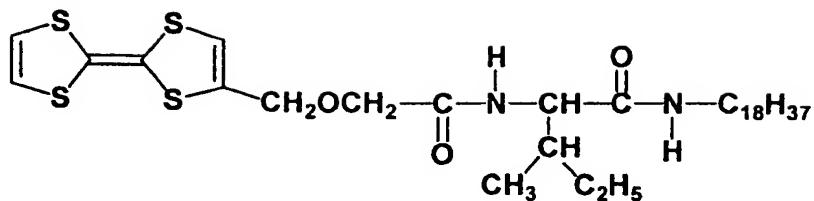
Formula (1):



[Claim 6] The liquid crystal composition according to claim 4, wherein the liquid crystal compound is a mixture of 4-heptyloxy-4'-cyanobiphenyl and 4-decyloxy-4'-cyanobiphenyl, and the gelling agent is composed of a functional amino acid compound having a tetrathiafulvalenyl group and represented by the following formula (1).

[Chemical Formula 3]

Formula (1) :

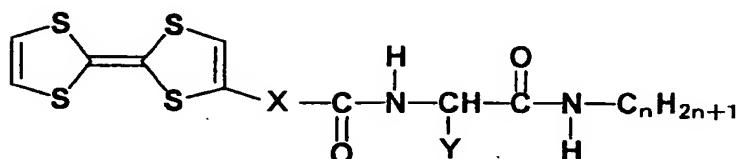


[Claim 7] A gelling agent composed of a charge transfer complex comprising, in combination, a functional amino acid compound having a tetrathiafulvalenyl group and an electron acceptable compound selected from a group consisting of iodine, bromine and tetracyanoquinodimethane.

[Claim 8] The gelling agent according to claim 7, wherein the functional amino acid compound is a compound having a tetrathiafulvalenyl group and represented by the following general formula (1).

[Chemical Formula 4]

General formula (1) :



[In the formula, X denotes a single bond or a divalent organic group, Y denotes a monovalent organic group, and n is an integer of 8 to 18.]

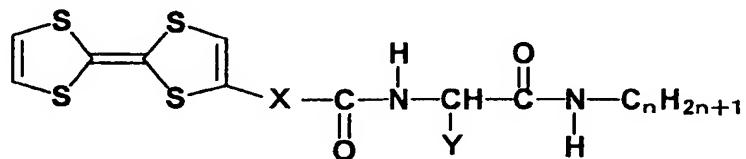
[Claim 9] A liquid crystal composition comprising a liquid crystal compound and a gelling agent, which is mixed with the liquid crystal compound to form a gelling mixture, wherein the liquid crystal compound is composed of a compound exhibiting a nematic phase or smectic phase, and the gelling agent is the gelling agent according to claim 7 or 8.

[Claim 10] A charge transfer complex comprising, in combination, a functional amino acid compound having a tetrathiafulvalenyl group and an electron acceptable compound selected from a group consisting of iodine, bromine and tetracyanoquinodimethane.

[Claim 11] The charge transfer complex according to claim 10, wherein the functional amino acid compound is a compound having a tetrathiafulvalenyl group and represented by the following general formula (1).

[Chemical Formula 5]

General formula (1) :



[In the formula, X denotes a single bond or a divalent organic group, Y denotes a monovalent organic group, and n is an integer of 8 to 18.]